

## ICEBERGS ON THE SEA

Great Breaking Up of Ice On Greenland's Coast.

## WARNINGS FOR MARINERS

Interesting Work of the Hydrographic Office—Ships Menaced by the Huge Frozen Masses.

The reports of the Hydrographic office of the Navy Department show a very unusually large number of icebergs sighted this year in the North Atlantic. Mr. Robert E. Lench of the Meteorological division, who has charge of the record of reports in regard to such matters, said he had never known, in the eight years of his service, anything like so many.

It is probably too early to say, but there is a prospect of a repetition of the great breaking up of ice on the east coast of Greenland in 1817. At that time vast fields of ice were loosened from their moorings and swung out into the open sea and drifted southward till they reached the Gulf stream, and even waters farther south, by which they were gradually calved up.

The sea was opened along the southeast of Greenland in a way that was never before known and interest in Arctic exploration was revived. It was noted that the much talked-of Northwest passage would be found after so much ice had come away, leaving unobstructed waters that had never been practicable within the traditions of the natives.

A hasty search does not reveal any



In the Ice Field.

record of a similar breaking loose of ice in the Northern Hemisphere from that time to this. In Antarctic seas there were evidences of the loosening of the ice fields and bergs about the Southern ice-cap in 1832, and again in 1854 and 1855. The icebergs in these regions are much larger at all times than in the North Atlantic.

The establishment of the United States service to warn navigators of the dangers by obstructions in the seas is of comparatively recent origin, at least in its present form of keeping and issuing systematically bulletins informing ship masters of the changes they may look out for on sea and along shore.

Reports on icebergs have been made only for about ten years past, and it is only in the past few years that any careful attempt has been made to do the work systematically and efficiently.

There is now published by the Hydrographic Office under Commander Charles D. Sigsbee, the Hydrographic Bulletin, which shows contributions from ports of call and higher officers of ships telling of obstructions and other things unusual they have encountered on their last trips. It is a sheet about the size of an ordinary newspaper.

**RETURNS FROM SHIPS.**

The latest issue, No. 350, of date of May 15, contains the following headings: "Reports Along the Coast," "Derelicts," "Wreckage," "Ice," "Ice Reports," and "New Signal Letters."

It summarizes the returns from nearly a



A Gigantic Berg.

hundred ships. Of these, in the present issue about a third are of ice fields and icebergs. This bulletin is now sent every week to about 2,500 ship officers and captains, who regularly contribute to its columns. No charge is made for it.

Beside this weekly bulletin the office issues a monthly pilot chart, which is of great assistance in navigation. It gives the prevailing winds and currents over the ocean, the normal state of the barometer and other information of that character. It shows the track of typical storms and locates graphically the positions of derelict ships and of ice when last seen.

In addition there is appended a forecast in general terms of what weather may be expected on the North Atlantic for the ensuing month, as well as the review of the past month. The most favorable routes for crossing the Atlantic are shown and lines of travel in every direction are given together with the best points for crossing the equator. A similar chart is also sent out for the Pacific.

From these publications the intelligent and observant mariner learns much that gives him skill in his calling. It is on passing the grand banks of Newfoundland, for example, he notices his thermometer and barometer to behave in an unusual manner, and then, when he comes into port, finds from the chart or the bulletin that there was a big storm near where he noticed the phenomenal movements of the mercury on the date of his observations. He can be sure that his instruments were affected by the approach of the storm, although he was never sent enough to see any of its effects in the air or on the sea. We will know next time what the mean-

ing of the changes in his readings and govern himself accordingly.

Along with the pilot chart there is usually a map showing some special feature of the work of the office. For instance, in a recent issue there was a graphic representation of all the much storms reported in the past five years.

A third publication by the office is its "Notes to Mariners." This does not give information about the North Atlantic alone but covers reports from all parts of the world. Its principal function is to advise mariners of changes in lights, buoyage, etc., at all harbors and at points of danger.

The bulletin of May 13 shows reports of icebergs and ice fields and floes, sent in by fifty-eight vessels. The season opened late, but since the first these reports of ice have been exceedingly numerous. They show that the ice is now working its way around the southern portion of Newfoundland toward the Halifax.

**ICE ON STRANGE SEAS.**

In a report not yet published, Capt. Braes of the State of California says that he passed a small berg in latitude 50, longitude 43 degrees and 43 minutes. In many years traveling that region he has never seen ice there before.

Capt. Laing of the Swedish vessel Björnsen, which was the first to attempt to enter the Gulf of St. Lawrence by the northern route through the Straits of Belle Isle, reports that his progress was stopped by fields of ice and he was obliged to turn back. Also Officer Behm, of the German steamship Roland, Capt. Van IJcken, tells of five bergs seen in the vicinity of the Grand Banks. The first was 100 feet high and 500 feet long, the next of insignificant dimensions, the third about the same size as the first, the fourth a large, very high and several miles long, and the last a large one several hundred feet high.

This gives the latest yet reported this year. It is very unusual in the North Atlantic to see icebergs as much as a mile in length, and 250 feet is about the limit of height. The immense size of such an ice mountain coasting along the border of Newfoundland will be better understood when it is recalled that the sub-

merged portion is about eight times as large as that which is visible. The total amount of ice represented were measurements have been taken in some cases over 10,000 tons.

There are reports from six other ships of ice sighted on May 2. The German steamer Italia, Capt. Martens, passed a small berg in latitude 41 degrees and 18 minutes, which is very near the lowest point ice is ever seen in the Atlantic. Mr. Seidenberg, on the German steamer Brillant, Capt. Keller, saw four bergs, one about 175 feet high, Third Mate Hill, of the British ship Armanian, observed a berg in latitude 43 degrees and 40 minutes which was 80 feet high and 125 feet long, and 40 minutes later to the westward he saw another 50 feet high and 80 feet long, with a quantity of field ice to the northward.

Later reports give larger numbers. Mr. Hoffeldt, of the ship Washington, Capt. Linkage, tells of eight bergs seen on May 12 on the Atlantic coast New Foundland and Third Officer Schaeffer, of the Latin, was the same number on that day in the vicinity. Near Cape Pine on May 8, Capt. Wallace of the British steamship Grecian saw six bergs and several pieces of ice, and on the same day, fifteen miles south-west from Plate Point light, toward four miles south, he saw a large berg. On May 10 a hundred bergs were reported in sight from Cape Race, but the field ice was moving off and several vessels had succeeded in entering St. John's.

**ECHOES FROM BERGS.**

Another report, speaks of eighteen bergs in sight at one time. The Dutch steamer

contributed to the story in this way, and the total cash was expended in sinking and upon a grand space thirty feet wide. A scow load of sand was purchased at a cost of \$8 and dumped upon the bed of the pool, forming a very good foundation.

The sand united with the silt and mud, and the succeeding year its utility was thereby greatly enhanced. A tough concrete was formed that more than met the expectations of the projectors—a success in fact and in principle.

Somebody's assertion must be had to this utilization of government territory, and Col. Haines, then the United States officer in charge, was consulted. He was delighted with the idea, but powerless to approve, no Army officer being authorized to permit the trespass.

**ADDS A SAVING CLAUSE.**

The "saving clause" was introduced, however, for Col. Haines promised that the police should not interfere, and he kept his word. That is the beginning of the constitution, and the little thing was accomplished until two years had passed. The people began to show their appreciation, nevertheless.

In the third year Congress was appealed to for an appropriation of \$3,000, and complied. The use of 500 feet of the river front was also granted, and real work was begun. Sand was hauled, cleared away, and 1,000 cubic yards of sand, purchased at a cost of \$650, were dumped upon the beach bottom.

Five hundred feet of a graded and sanded, and 100 bath houses, with accommodations for twice that number of bathers, came out of the previous barren waste. Most of the Times readers will recall the little flurry that arose about this time over the raising of the color line.

There was no such distinction, per se.

There are a good many suggestions as to the cause of this unusual movement of ice. One is that the almost unprecedented mild weather in high latitudes for the past winter. Another suggestion from mariners is that the current from the Arctic sea for some reason is much stronger and that there have been high winds aiding it in its work of breaking up the ice fields lining the shores of Greenland.

**Opposed to Stealing Once.**

She-1 see Jack Parsons is a defaulter. He-1 see how he has changed. Why, when he used to play baseball he wouldn't even steal a base—New York Evening Telegram.

**To Fit the Appetite.**

"What do you charge for board?"  
"Do you ride a bicycle?"  
"Yes, what difference does that make?"  
"It will be \$11 more a week."—Chicago Record.

**Proposed Scheme in Detail.**

The superintendent's idea, which will be eventually carried out, is to either have a dam built across the mouth of the inner basin and introduce a penstock, with a gate to a point of the dam and flow of the tide at any time when it shall become necessary, or, what is equally well, to have a gate put in at the mouth and omit the dam. The latter alternative will probably be adopted. The stone retaining wall now being built by the government to protect the reclaimed flats, sometime to be known as Potomac Park, can be readily adapted to the plan, and will be.

It is designed to preserve an equal depth about four and one-half feet over the area shown in the sketch of the inner basin to a given line of the wharf, which line shall be in the exact center of the pool and shall be built about three inches above the surface of the water, for the convenience of the divers, and from which also, a watchman may constantly view the surface.

An expert could almost jump from the wharf to the center of this proposed pool for the rescue of any one in distress. There would be no occasion to wade anywhere, over the entire field, except about the narrow basin, the depth of which will be about twenty feet.

The entire basin is about 1,200x300 feet, and the swimming area may be made one hundred times greater than present facilities afford.

**AN OLD FASHIONED SWIM.**

The superintendent has expected to add a genuine bathhouse where made bathers

but the maintenance of separate houses and bathing suits, with quarters for the two colors located at the extreme of the ground, caused a worthy discussion in the newspapers, and the filing of protests from points as far away as Cincinnati. It is worthy of note that no complaint of that character was received from a single one of the colored patrons of the beach. They were not only satisfied, but really preferred the arrangement that was permitted for a while to shake the foundations of the governmental structure.

In the beginning of the struggle for perpetuity the management was obliged to scheme for funds, and among the devices for securing public aid was the giving of an entertainment of a literary and musical character. It was one of the best of its kind with which the city has ever been regaled, but the result was not encouraging. Through inadequate advertisement and a failure of the projectors to have its mission fairly understood, the enterprise fell short of meeting expenses by as much as \$14, and Mr. Bygonesse forest the loss.

## NEW BATHING BEACH PLAN

Mr. Stevens Will Not Rest Until His Ideal Is Realized.

## GROWTH OF A FREE SPORT

From Humble Origin It Has Come to Be Recognized as a Necessary Adjunct to Our Municipal Life.

Washington has a bathing beach in the incipient stage, and should present anticipations be realized, the acquisition, long deferred, will early develop into a reality to which every citizen may point with pride. It has made rapid strides in five years, and in the experience of the past two summers, there has been but the foundation for yet greater progress, and in much less time than has been required to bring the improvement to its present stage.

The beach was the product of an enterprising purpose to serve the rising generation, and its progress and present status are due to the perseverance and patience of Mr. W. X. Stevens, its superintendent, whose services have been freely given, oftentimes at a financial sacrifice, and whose aim it is to prove that Washington can have public bathing facilities equal in appropriateness to those of Long Beach, another locality more favored naturally.

It is in a fair way to succeed. The embryo pool which he selected in 1889, having been then an open lot, has since the test of experience, and will during the coming summer be much better patronized than ever by both sexes and all ages.

The beach is not what it is designed to be, nor located where it is intended to be. It has great expectations of a deliverance from its present enervous and enervating state, and the sketch given of the present site, with its bath houses and accompaniments, is but a perspective of what it will be by the grace of Congress and the District Commissioners, as represented in the second view.

**HUMBLE IN ORIGIN.**

This waterside resort had an humble beginning, as had many other greater enterprises. The necessity for such a provision was forced upon Mr. Stevens' attention by the mere fact that he was himself obliged to go a long distance for an inferior open air bath, and he set about to solve the problem.

He searched the river shore from Georgetown to Annapolis seeking a suitable location, and after a survey of the entire field he came to the conclusion that there was nowhere an eligible site excepting at the one point which he finally selected for the experiment, near the foot of Seventeenth Street.

It is described to be "between the inlet and outlet to the river and the inlet and outlet to an inner basin, and also between the outlet of the inner basin, which is necessarily prominent in the narrative, and the flanking gates of the wharves."

The Washington Bathing Beach Association was organized to obtain the necessary appropriation. The plan was to build a bathhouse, and it was composed of young men and boys, with Mr. Stevens as the guiding genius to

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In the beginning of the struggle for perpetuity the management was obliged to scheme for funds, and among the devices for securing public aid was the giving of an entertainment of a literary and musical character. It was one of the best of its kind with which the city has ever been regaled, but the result was not encouraging. Through inadequate advertisement and a failure of the projectors to have its mission fairly understood, the enterprise fell short of meeting expenses by as much as \$14, and Mr. Bygonesse forest the loss.

Among other experiences was the characterization of the leader of the movement by some of the citizens as a visionary crank or enthusiast. One man in his own mind effected that drowning in his own pool was about the correct fate for him, but that man became shortly thereafter one of the most ardent supporters of the cause.

There was a real case of drowning at the beach not long after it became a resort for the youth of the town, and the friends of the unfortunate seriously contemplated the District for the recovery of \$10,000 as damages, but it was clearly shown that the occurrence was due to carelessness and that in no event could the government be held responsible. This and similar events came as the discouraging features of the undertaking.

The beach is well graded and has a good bottom, but it is not absolutely safe, nor in any respect as desirable as the inner basin can be made, and when that pool shall be completed, and the improvements made as now contemplated, it will be as near the ideal bathing place as the river front can furnish.

When the tide is extremely low a venturesome person may wade out to the danger line where he would be liable to drop into deep and treacherous water. Every precaution is taken to prevent accidents, and no fatality has occurred from this cause, but the danger exists nevertheless. To guard the unwary a boatman is constantly on duty ready to direct and warn. A flight of stairs is placed on either side of the wharf, for convenience, there is a policeman to enforce order, and strict rules are made for observance whereby the peril is minimized.

One objection to the present site is that full tide and complete ebbs tide occur about three-fourths of an hour later each successive day, so that full tide on one Monday may occur at the same hour when on the succeeding Monday the low tide falls, and this constantly changing ebbs and flows makes greater care and watchfulness essential and increase the difficulties of the situation. It has been given one day at a point where he has ample depth, but on another day the same exploit in that locality will bring his head into collision with the bottom of the pool.

The rescue is true, also, for where there is absolute safety on one occasion to a youth who is unable to swim, he may founder in water on his head due to a later venture.

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## Stern's Feast of Bargains.

5c. a yard is the price we put on fine line of imitation grass lines, the same patterns as the 12 1-2c. goods. You will hardly notice the difference, and when made up nobody else can see the difference.

5c. a yard is our price for an assortment of Remnants of all kinds of Lawns and Dimities, both figured and plain colors. Everybody can find something in this lot to suit and will save more than half of regular price.

6c. a yard for 10c. Lawns and Dimities, worth and sold elsewhere at 10c.

At 10c. we are showing a complete assortment of high grade Dimity in all possible shades and figured; also the latest linen effects. These goods were made to be sold at 18c., and we don't think that you could secure them at our price—10c.—anywhere else in the city.

12 1-2c. is all we ask for Grass Linen, in plain and Dimity stripes; you should see them.

10c. is our price for Ducks and Pique in the leading shades, in plain and figured.

8c. for Chamois Crepe, in various shades. A full line and all shades.

5c. yard for remnants of fine India Linen and Checked and Striped Muslin; worth 8c.

8c. yard for finest India Linens and Fancy White Goods.

8c. for remnants of fine Black Satteen.

6c. yard for fine plain Black Lawns; could not be matched for less than 10c. anywhere.

5c. yard for best quality Dress Gingham and Apron Towels.

5c. for large size Towels; should be 10c.

5c. for three cakes of Butter milk Soap.

25c. for fancy Table Covers; worth 40c.

\$1.40 for complete Duck Suits; worth \$1.98.

\$1.39 for Brilliant Dress Skirts; worth double.

49c. for Remnants of Shirt Waists, with full sleeves and large variety of styles.

68c. for Grass Linen Waists; worth 98c.

12 1-2c. for Corset Covers; made of best Lonsdale Cambric.

4c. for Ladies' and Children's Ribbed Vests.

5c. for regular 10c. Bleached Ribbed Vests.

15c. for Silk or Leather Belts.

15c. for 25c. Silk Mitts.

12 1-2c. for fine embroidered 1 1-2c. Handkerchiefs; truly worth 25c.

59c. for Ladies' Wrappers; you would guess at least 75c.

2c. yard for Valenciennes Laces.

3c. yard for Hamburg Edging.

5c. yard for Swiss Edging.

5c. yard for Torchon Laces.

5c. yard for stockings for Ladies, Men or Children.